

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 US Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-207 US Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan & Leader McCarthy:

A critically important issue to our constituents in West Virginia and the citizens of our country is the funding of community health centers. On November 3, the House voted in a bi-partisan fashion to fund the community health center program through the end of fiscal year 2019 by passing H.R. 3922, the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act. Unfortunately, the United States Senate failed to act on that measure.

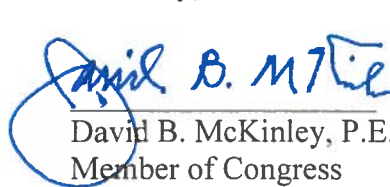
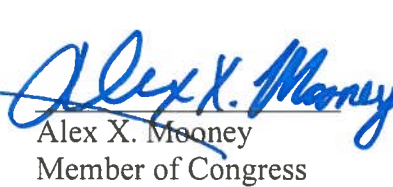

Although the House acted responsibly to fund community health centers, we are concerned that the ongoing lack of a solution has created uncertainty amongst health care providers in our state, as well as the vulnerable populations they serve. One in four West Virginians rely on the services that these health centers provide, from primary and dental care, to women's health and pediatric care. The twenty-seven federal grantee organizations in the state have over three hundred delivery sites that are integral in serving the rural communities where access to basic health care remains an ongoing issue.

With the lack of certainty in funding, community health centers will be faced with difficult choices. They will either cut jobs or critical services, such as behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. With the opioid crisis in our state being particularly acute, this is an untenable situation both for both patients and providers.

We urge you to work with Senate leadership to address the funding for community health centers on a long-term basis as soon as possible. Absent further Congressional action, this funding will expire at the end of March.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working together to address it in the immediate future.

Sincerely,

		
David B. McKinley, P.E. Member of Congress	Alex X. Mooney Member of Congress	Evan H. Jenkins Member of Congress